

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the December Issue of OUR TOWN

It's finally starting to feel a little more like Winter! Our Fall sports have finished with some great successes; read all about it in our schools section. Our Library and Open Space teams are celebrating the season both indoors and out, and our recycling team has tips for the holidays. But the big news this month is our new easy way to sign up for this newsletter and other important news updates from the Town. Simply click on the link here or below and enter your email address... and that's it! Important information will come straight to you.

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the November issue, please contact Ruth Townsend at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com.

[Click here](#)



SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER



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in one easy step.



VOL. 1, NO.12, DECEMBER 2022

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- RECYCLING

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**NEW! Easy way to
sign up for this
newsletter and other
important news!
Tell a friend in Dover**



Board of Selectmen

Board of Selectmen Community Center Project Status



NEW
UPDATE



Building doorway and path

In October 2022, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) hired a Peer Review consultant to evaluate how Pembroke and Sandwich designed their community centers to result in Spring 2022 bids of ~\$600/sq.ft. The consultant analyzed the Dover construction documents to determine alternative design elements that could potentially reduce the cost of our Community Center so that the spend would be closer to the \$18.85M approved at the June 2021 Special Town Meeting.

At their November 16th meeting, the BOS reviewed a cost reconciliation between the projects and recommendations made by the Peer Review consultant. These recommendations were discussed by all attending parties. Click [here](#) to view the recording of this meeting.

The BOS held another meeting on November 21st that was attended by the Building Committee and the Capital Budget Committee, as well as Dover citizens. During this meeting, the OPM presented his recommendation of building modifications that present an opportunity to reduce costs but not delay the project, incorporating some of the Peer Review consultant's findings. The OPM also identified project features that could be funded through alternate/private sources. If all the identified options were realized, approximately \$750,000 could be eliminated from the construction budget. The BOS voted to rebid the Community Center Building Project.

At their November 30th meeting the BOS voted to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all documents related to the Additional Services Contract between Colliers Project Leaders and the Town of Dover.

Timeline:

- December 2022 - Confirm that the options discussed and agreed to at the November 21st BOS meeting were feasible and would achieve the projected results without impacting the project timeline. Start preparation required to rebid the project
- January to May 2023 - Execute and complete the rebid process
- June 3, 2023 - Hold a Special Town Meeting to approve funding, if necessary, for the Dover Community Center
- June 17 or 24, 2023 - Conduct a Town election to approve funding, if necessary, for the Dover Community Center

To ensure that you get current information click [here](#) to sign up for town updates and this newsletter. You can also call the BOS Office and provide us with your email address so that we can add you to this list.



Board of Selectmen cont.

Team News - Message from Chris Dwelley, Town Administrator

Last week, with a heavy heart, I submitted my resignation to the Board of Selectmen. Commuting from the Cape and having a young family proved difficult to balance and prompted my decision to seek employment closer to home. My last day serving the community will be January 6, 2023.

Being a part of Dover for the past three and a half years has been a tremendous honor; one that I will never forget. During this time we navigated a global pandemic, the passing of beloved staff members, support for a renovated community center building, a stable tax rate and strong financial position, and a multitude of modernization efforts to strengthen how town government serves its residents.

To help facilitate a smooth transition, the Board of Selectmen voted to have Carl Valente serve as Interim Town Administrator upon my departure. Having served in this role once before, Carl is familiar with the community and day-to-day operations. For the next six weeks I'll work with Carl to transition major projects, hiring efforts, the FY24 budget, and the 2023 annual town meeting warrant to ensure that the day-to-day operations of the town continue without interruption. We will also use this time to solicit information from executive search firms to begin the process of searching for a permanent Town Administrator.

I'm forever grateful for having had the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated group of residents, volunteers, and staff, and wish you all the best.

Chris Dwelley



Town house building with cars in front and snow

Thank you Chris for all
you have done to help
the Town of Dover
and support the residents,
volunteers, and staff.
We wish you all the best
in your new role.

*Thank
you!*

Parks and Recreation

DOVER'S SECOND ANNUAL TURKEYBOWL WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!



Over 30 kids pose for the camera at the Chickering Field complex

Thanks to Coach Pete, assistant coaches, volunteers, and all of the participants! See you next year!

PROFORMANCE SOCCER

WINTER SESSION 2

group of kids with soccer balls

REGISTRATION OPENS

WEDNESDAY 11/30 @ 10:00 AM

Dover PARKS & RECREATION

DOVERREC.ACTIVITYREG.COM

f t i @DOVERRECMA

Dover Placemaking Project

Last month, the first-ever Dover Placemaking Project artwork entitled Yggdrasil started its journey from one Parks and Recreation maintained location to another at Channing Pond. It was created by 3 students from Dover Sherborn High School's Class of 2022. Emily Waugh, Hazel Nystrom, and Rachel Windle spent many months collaborating on the artwork after their proposal was selected a year ago by a panel of local artists and community leaders.

Part of the artists' statement reads:

"our piece reflects the interconnectivity of different groups in the Dover community and the collective whole these groups create." Yggdrasil was designed and constructed to withstand both travel and weather conditions. The project was generously funded by a grant from the Dover Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

To learn more click [here](#).



Colorful sculpture on back of pick up truck



Colorful sculpture by side of pond, between picnic tables

Schools

Chickering

In November, Chickering was proud to work with PTO to collect 27 complete Thanksgiving baskets for Family Promise Metrowest. We also learned about and celebrated Veteran's Day.

Did you know that our fifth grade students lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, read the announcements, student birthdays and raise the American flag each day?

In early November, we hosted our School Committee and School Advisory Council for a morning of touring classrooms and teaching spaces as well as lunch! Visitors were able to see our staff and students deep in engaging work, accessing content through traditional and digital media as well as small group work and cooperative play.



Collection of brown cardboard boxes decorated with Fall leaves in front of Fall Art on a noticeboard

High School Athletics

Congratulations to all DSHS Fall Sports Teams for fantastic seasons and deep playoff runs!

Football - their playoff run ended in a hard fought 21-14 loss to Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in the MIAA D5 Semifinal game.

Girls Soccer - saw their season end in a razor thin MIAA D3 semifinal loss to Hanover High School after extra time and PKs

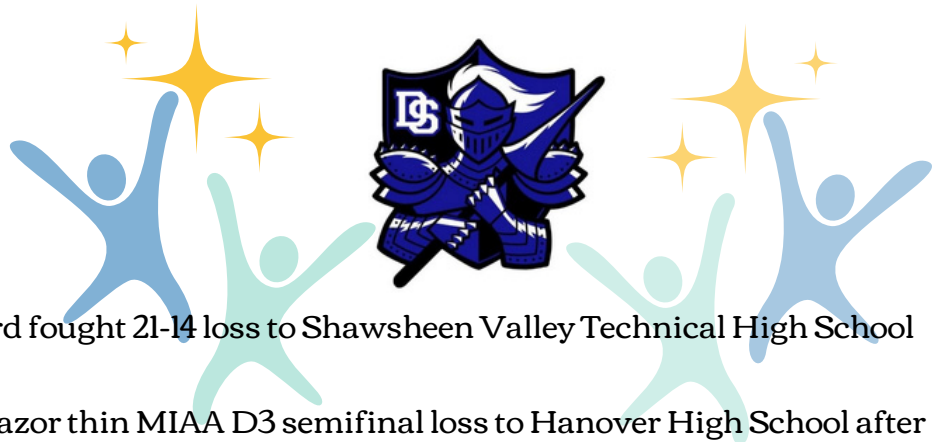
Boys Soccer -their playoff run ended in a well played and close 1-0 loss to Dedham High School in the MIAA D3 play offs.

Field Hockey - their season concluded after a 6-0 loss to defending State Champion Watertown High School in the MIAA D3 semi final game.

Girls and Boys Cross Country - Congratulations for strong performances at the MIAA All States. The girls Team finished 7th while the boys team finished 11th.

Golf - finished as MIAA D3 Central Champions shooting a 302 at Blissful Meadows

Winter sports will begin soon and you can still come along to cheer on Dover's teams!



Click here for information on Winter sports.

Minuteman High School Accepting Applications for 2023-24 School Year

Minuteman High School in Lexington is now accepting applications for students who will be in ninth grade in the fall of 2023. Dover is a member of the Minuteman regional school district. Students with an interest in any of Minuteman's 19 career technical education programs are strongly encouraged to apply!



The priority deadline to apply is February 15. Along with award-winning academics, Minuteman's CTE programs include animal science, automotive, biotechnology, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, design and visual communications, electrical wiring, engineering, environmental science, health assisting, multimedia, programming and web development, welding, and others. For information about evening tours and the admissions process, click [here](#).

Open Space Committee



2nd Saturday Stroll in Hale with a break for Cider & Donuts

December 10th, 10:30 am to ~12:30 pm *** Free but Please Pre-Register ***

Please join the Open Space Committee (OSC) for this special guided walk with Eric Arnold, Executive Director at Hale, sponsored by the Dover OSC. The walk will take you through Hale, and sample a few of the over 20 miles of trails which are interconnected Town of Dover's Larrabee Estate and Trustees of Reservations' Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm - a contiguous landscape of over 2300 acres of open space!

This walk will include a break midway to warm up with cider & donuts and hear about the conservation efforts at Hale. This is an information session, not fundraising, and is especially relevant for Dover & Westwood citizens. Please tell your friends!

The walk will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

Parking & meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants. To Register, please click [here](#)



Library

WHAT'S IT WORTH? W/ KENNETH GLOSS

Proprietor of the **Brattle Book Shop** and frequent contributor to **Antiques Roadshow**, Kenneth Gloss, will join us to share his experience as a rare manuscript appraiser. A Q&A session with appraisals will follow the talk.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH @ 6:00PM

**DOVER TOWN LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM**



Man seated in front of stacks of books



*News
letter*



Join the Dover Town Library mailing list by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Library's website

Cookies and A Capella - a lovely Holiday event

The Council on Aging, in collaboration with The Dover Church, organized a holiday event on December 6. Seniors were treated to an A Cappella concert of golden oldies, Disney, and holiday songs, performed by Second Wind. The group started over 45 years ago and is 10 women strong, ranging in age from 30 to 81. Additionally, seniors received a box filled with delicious and festive holiday cookies. A huge thank you to our 30 volunteers who baked over 1,000 cookies! What a treat!



Group of ladies singing with conductor

Click [here](#) for the COA home page and [here](#) for their newsletter.

Recycling Committee

Guidelines and tips for Recycling over the holiday season Reduce, reuse, recycle and conserve town funds

WRAPPING PAPER: DO NOT THROW IT IN THE MIXED PAPER TRAILER.

It goes in the regular trash since it is chemically treated with fire retardant and cannot be recycled.

Purchase wrapping paper made from recycled materials, be creative by using newspapers, brown paper bags (recyclable) or gift bags (reusable).

CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS AND PLANTS: Strip all ornaments, tinsel and wires and deposit in the yard waste section of the Transfer Station.

HOLIDAY TANGLERS: Keep holiday tangles out of your recycling. String decorations like holiday lights and tinsel may look good on trees, but they create a mess once inside recycling facilities. Malfunctioning lights and tinsel should be thrown into the trash.

CARDBOARD BOXES: Breakdown and flatten all boxes and remove plastic liners and Styrofoam. Offer sturdy cardboard boxes to neighbors on Nextdoor.com, Buy Nothing Dover/Sherborn Facebook group and Freecycle.com. These are the sites used to find or dispose of free moving boxes. Explore givebackbox.com to pack household goods and clothing you no longer need to donate to charity. All Dover residents must have a RED transfer station sticker on their automobile. The stickers do not have the town name or zip code so residents can feel comfortable displaying them on their windshields. Stickers are FREE and will be checked during the holiday season.



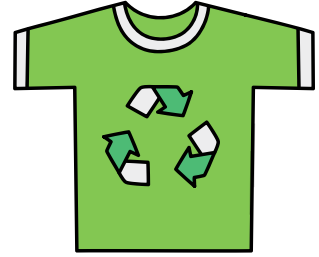
THANK YOU!

Recycling Committee cont.

Textile Recycling

Don't put your textiles in the trash! New state rules require textiles be kept out of the trash so they can be recycled or donated for reuse. Massachusetts residents dispose of 230,000 tons of textiles annually. 95% of textiles thrown away in MA could be reused or repurposed!

Used textiles (old clothes, shoes, bedding, etc.) **MUST BE BAGGED** and in good condition before placing them in the textile bins at the Transfer Station or the Middle and High Schools. Good-condition items are sold at secondhand shops, while worn/torn textiles are turned into rags, insulation, and more.



Board of Health

A banner with a background of various ticks. On the left is a QR code. To its right, the text reads: **Public Health Alert**
Ticks Are EVERYWHERE!
Protect Yourself tinyurl.com/dovertickinfo

Deer ticks were very active in October and November! Click [here](#) for detailed information or use URL or QR code from above.

Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.

Health Agent

The Board of Health has hired a full-time health agent, Jason Belmonte, whose first day will be November 28. Watch for a profile of Jason in the January issue!

**WELCOME
TO THE TEAM!**

December Quick Links

➔ Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



➔ Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction Enforcement Bylaw Policy.

LEARN MORE



*Warm
wishes*

for the holidays!



Want to contribute to January's newsletter?

Please submit content to Ruth at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com

by December 15.

Click below to stay updated on Town news

